

WARE RIVER NEWS



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Lake Wickaboag eagles captured on film

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WEST BROOKFIELD — It's that time of year for many birds and animals, and photographer Anna Henderson, a Warren resident, captured a bald eagle and its chick recently, which happens to be one of her favorite activities: photographing birds.

"This is the first time I've gotten eagles," she said in an interview Monday. "I know the people whose property the nest is on and they said I could come anytime and take photos."

Henderson said this is the third year the eagles have nested there, although they don't stay all year. The adults leave after the eaglets leave the nest.

"While they really love having the eagles nest on their property, by the time they leave the residents are ready for them to go," she said. Many times partial carcasses are dropped from the nest, and they must park their cars away from the nest so those items don't land

Please see **EAGLE**, page 3



ABOVE: A bald eagle with one of its chicks in a nest on Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield.

Turley Publication courtesy photos by Anna Henderson

A bald eagle in its nest on Lake Wickaboag in West Brookfield.

TM, town election date set for June

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

HARDWICK — Selectmen set several town meetings and the Town Election dates at their Monday night meeting. They had postponed them temporarily when stay-at-home recommendations were put in place in mid-March to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

STM for sewer project

A Special Town Meeting, which was opened on March 16, with each of the five articles was tabled until April, is now set for Tuesday, June 2, at 6 p.m., at Hardwick Elementary School. It may be conducted outside.

At that meeting, voters will decide whether the town should borrow money to upgrade the town's public sewer system. It will include improvements to the Gilbertville Water Pollution Control Facility, the Wheelwright Water Pollution Control System and the Route 32A sewer line upgrade from the Eagle Hill School to the Gilbertville Water Pollution Collection System.

A public information meeting about the sewer project, which was to be held earlier this year, has now been tentatively set for Tuesday, May 19, at 6 p.m., at the Hardwick Elementary School. It may be held outside as well.

Last fall town officials began discussing trying to forge a regional approach to its wastewater treatment plant and sewer line issues by working with

Please see **HARDWICK**, page 3

Memorial Day ceremonies moved online

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

GILBERTVILLE — The Memorial Day ceremonies will not be held in person at each of the locations in Hardwick this year, but selectman Julie Quink offered to put together something online to observe veterans who died while serving in the military.

"I know that there are a lot of people who enjoy the Memorial Day Parade and I'd like to do something," she said. She will host it on Zoom, the online conferencing application. "Honestly, I'd be happy to host it. There's been so much negative news these days

and people are stuck inside their homes. I'd like to provide something, maybe on a lower scale than we normally do."

She said Town Clerk Paul Roberts, who always reads the names of the Hardwick veterans who died serving their country could do the same online, and recorded music could be played as well.

Quink said she would like to honor the veterans and this would be a good faith gesture. Resident Ann Barnes suggested ringing the Town House bell at a certain time, which Town Administrator Theresa Cofske said would be a nice idea.

Selectmen agreed it would be a good thing to do and Quink will pull it all together.

Hardwick is not alone in choosing not to go forward with Memorial Day ceremonies as Ware has also chosen not to hold theirs this year.

Quabbin assessment

Selectmen discussed the Quabbin Regional School District assessment for fiscal 2021, with selectman Kenan Young saying the increase was 10 percent above this

Please see **CEREMONY**, page 6

Town Hall paint colors under consideration

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE — At its Monday night Zoom meeting online, the Ware Historical Commission discussed paint colors for the Ware Town Hall's Great Hall, which is in need of a makeover.

Commission members went earlier that day to Town Hall to look at large paint examples of three colors: Colonial yellow, belvedere cream and classic ivory. They will continue considering the colors until next Monday when they will view the paint actually on a portion of the walls so they can get a better idea of how they will look in the Hall.

Some members feel using the Colonial yellow for the walls, including the balcony and the ticket area, would be too intense and that the lighter colors would be better.

"We're spending too much money to make a mistake," said Commission member Wanda Mysona. Town Meeting voters approved \$32,000 to paint the Great Hall, and the Friends of the Ware

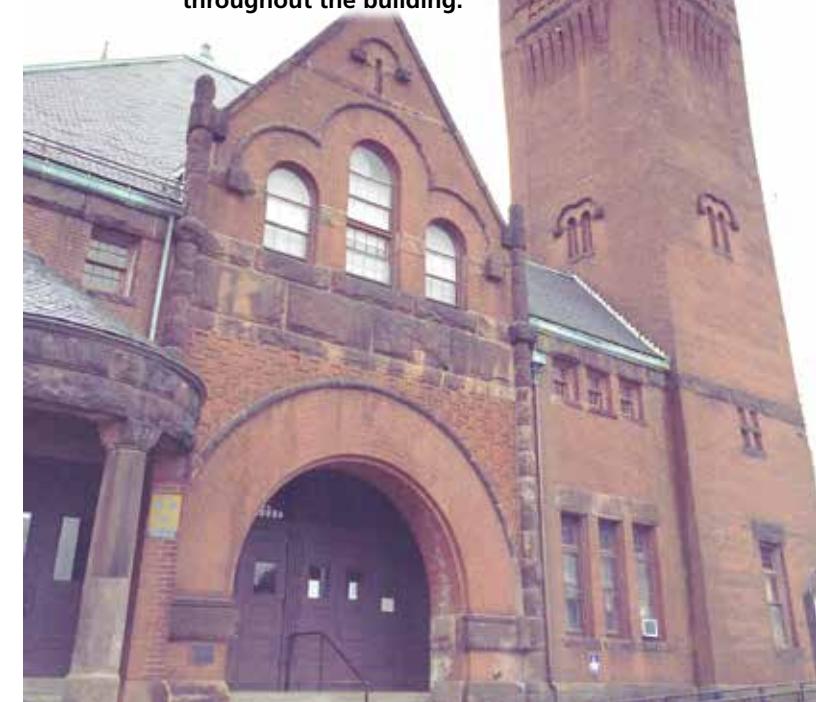
Town Hall donated \$5,000 toward the work.

Town Manager Stuart Beckley said the painting contractor has about two weeks of preparation work to do on the walls, so there is still time to consider which colors work best.

Members briefly discussed a \$50,000 grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund, which would let the town repaint and replace bricks in problem areas throughout the building. It requires a \$50,000 match from the town, Beckley said. An article requesting \$50,000 for the match will be on the Annual Town Meeting warrant this year, which has tentatively set for June 1. He said it will be a challenging year for funding items due to the economy.

They also discussed the Town Hall's clock tower bells. A factory in Ohio is recasting the hammers for the bell, as Ware's remain stationary and only the hammers move. Right now, with COVID-19 restrictions, the factory is not open right now.

Ware Town Hall's Great Hall will be receiving a new coat of paint and if the grant application process is successful, the town may be able to repaint and replace brickwork throughout the building.



Ware Family Pack 520 Lion, Jackson Miller, age 6, is ready to attend Camp Quarantine.

'Camp Quarantine' connects scouts across the region

By Paula Ouimette
Staff writer

The arrival of spring brought with it the promise of camping adventures for Scouts everywhere, but the coronavirus pandemic has prevented packs and troops from gathering together. To continue fostering a love of the outdoors, the Heart of New England Council, BSA, invited Scouts of all levels to join in a virtual campout, Camp Quarantine 2020, this past weekend.

Opening ceremonies began Friday afternoon via live feed on Facebook and continued through Saturday. Scouts and their families set up camp inside the com-

fort of their own homes, or braved the cool weather outdoors. Cub Scouts participated from all over, including from Barre Pack 26 and Ware Family Pack 520.

This was the first official Cub Scout camping experience for Pack 520: Lions, Jackson Miller and Penny Ouimette; Bear, Quinn Ouimette; and Webelo, Sadie Ouimette, all joined in. Tiger Cooper Sampson and Lion Deklan Sampson, brothers from Barre Pack 26, braved the elements outdoors in their backyard.

The Scouts agreed that one of the biggest challenges they faced at Camp Quarantine, was setting up camp indoors. Pitching a tent

Please see **CAMP**, page 6

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COMMUNITY

Hugs delivered through the mail

Page 5



SPORTS

Spring sports officially cancelled

Page 7



HEALTH

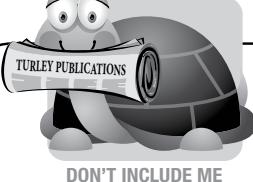
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The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



The Ware River News will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 3. To request a correction, send information to ekennedy@turley.com, or call 967-3505. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Ware River News, Attn: Editor, 80 Main St., Ware, MA 01082.

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Niko's, Main Street, 413-967-0469
Villa's, Main Street, 413-967-0200
Lazer's, Main Street, 413-967-3181
Debbie Wong, West Main, 413-967-3336
Teresa's, Palmer Road, 413-967-7601
Subway, West Street, 413-277-0438
Dunkin Donuts, West Street
Taco Bell, West Street, 413, 967-4898
McDonald's, West Street
Wicked Wings, 413-277-0020, hours vary

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Westfield Savings, Gibbs Crossing
North Brookfield, Main Street

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Walmart, 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Convenience/Liquor
Brusso's, West Main Street
Jane Alden, West Street
Ware Package Store, Main Street
Cumberland Farms, West Street
Brookside Mart, West Street

Meals/Food Pick up
Children under 18
Ware Middle School, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Kidstop, Pleasant St., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Hillside Village, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Seniors, Senior Center 967-9648, ext. 501, weekdays 11:30 a.m.
Trinity Church, Jubilee Cupboard, Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon, diapers also available
Food Bank distribution, Hillside, Third Tuesdays, 1 to 2 p.m.

Home Services
BEC Heating and Plumbing
Lowe's
Walmart
LaGrant Electric
Senior Outreach program, 413-867-3001

Pharmacies
Wal-Mart, 9 a.m.
Walgreens, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
CVS, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Are You Old News?

Each week the Ware River News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured.

Email your answers by Monday at noon to ekennedy@turley.com.

Lynne Gravel Rude recognized two people in last week's Are You Old News? They were her parents, **Vera Gravel**, in the front row left, and **Roland Gravel**, second in from right. They and the other people were being recognized for their donations of \$100 or more to the Young Men's Library Association. They were being thanked for contributing to the library's campaign, which totaled \$70,000. From left in the back row: **James Madigan**, **Dennis Lewis**, **Nancy Hyde**, **Waldo Lincoln** and **Peter Thamel**. Third row: **Susanna Lewis**, **Charlotte Graves**, **MaryAnn DeSantis**, **Roland Gravel** and **Lattimer Hyde**. Second row: **Jean Quigley**, **Marion Senecal**, **Joseph Senecal** and **Katheryn Nowak**. Front row: **Vera Gravel** and **Librarian Dorothy Mapes**.

If anyone recognizes the Grand Marshall for Ware's Memorial Day parade in 1991, please send the answer and your full name to ekennedy@turley.com.



WHAT DAY IS IT ANYWAY?

GILBERTVILLE – Get Up and Dance has a little fun with all the days blending one into another these days with symbols for all the holidays under the sun and then some.

Turley Publications photo by Mandy Miller

Ware Community Theatre's auditions by appointment

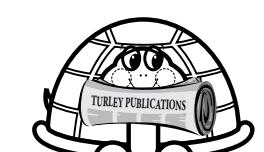
WARE – Auditions for Ware Community Theatre's summer production of the Sater/Shelk musical of "Spring Awakening" will be held by appointment only on May 8, and May 9, at 7 p.m., at Ware Town Hall, 126 Main St. Ware. This celebration

of rebellion boasts cast flexibility of all ages and use of performance creativity coupled with vocal talent is encouraged.

To schedule an audition time please e-mail warecommunitytheater@hotmail.com, call or text 413-

Turley The Turtle

There were 10 Turley the Turtles in the April 24 edition of the Ware River News.



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We thought we would give you a quick update. First, we are happy to re-introduce weekly sales. We are cautiously optimistic that the market will slowly return back to its pre-Corona days. Until then our frozen items are proving to be the best value. We encourage you to give these items a try!

Second, we have posted throughout the store, on our website and on Facebook our health and safety rules. We kindly ask that you adhere to these in order to protect our customers and hard working staff. If you don't have access to or forgot your gloves no worries here! We are providing a pair of free gloves to each shopper as they enter the store. We are all in this together! Be well and stay safe!

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House and Senate authorize virtual notarizations

BOSTON — The House of Representatives and the Senate have approved legislation authorizing notaries public to conduct electronic notarization of documents during the ongoing novel coronavirus State of Emergency.

State Rep. Todd Smola (R-Warren) said Senate Bill 2645 will allow Massachusetts residents to obtain notarization services for executing wills, real estate title transfers, guardianships, health care proxies, and other essential documents while using real-time videoconferencing to help maintain proper social distancing. The bill was enacted in both legislative branches on April 23 and is now on Gov. Charlie Baker's desk awaiting his signature.

Senate Bill 2645 establishes strict parameters for validating virtual notary transactions, including requiring the notary public and each of the principals involved to be physically present in the commonwealth. Copies of the video recording and all related documents must be retained by the notary public for a period of 10 years.

The bill also requires each principal involved in an electronic notarization transaction to provide the notary public with satisfactory

evidence of their identity, which can include a government-issued ID containing the individual's photo and signature. The principal must also arrange for the executed document to be delivered to the notary public following the video conference.

For transactions involving mortgages and real estate title transfers, a secondary form of ID must also be provided, such as a credit card, Social Security card, municipal tax bill, or a utility bill. A follow-up video conference is also required for these types of transactions so the notary public can confirm the document received matches up with the document that was executed during the initial video conference.

The provisions of Senate Bill 2645 will remain in effect until three business days after the State of Emergency is lifted. Representative Smola noted these temporary measures are needed to carry out notary work while eliminating the need for person-to-person contact to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

For additional information please contact Smola at Todd. Smola@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2100.



Turley Publications photo by Mandy Miller

THANKS AND LOVE TO ALL

WARE — Country's Bank's Main Street branch, although closed to the public, is showing its thanks and love to those working on the front lines these days, including a stuffed version of the company's mascot, Buck.

Ware Boy Scout Troop 281 Bottle/Can Drive

WARE — Due to COVID 19 restrictions, we are unable to hold a drop off based Bottle and Can drive at this time. However, if you have four or more bags of bottles and cans, as many as you have, the troop

is more than willing to set up a pick up at peoples' homes. Please contact Scoutmaster Dan Flynn at 413-297-5886 or email scoutdad281@charter.net. Thank you for the continued support of your local Boy Scout program.

EAGLE from page 1

on them. "They also find cool things the birds have dropped in their year such as fishing lures," Henderson said.

While birds of prey are her favorite bird to capture, she likes to photograph all kinds of birds, she said. She lives in Warren and often goes to the swamps on South Street near the Warren Community Elementary School. "For several years there were great blue herons, but now those nests house ospreys," she said. She often goes to swamps along Brook Road and New Reed Street, where she can find a variety of bird life.

She got the photography bug about five years ago. She was caring for her father full-time in his home along Quaboag Pond in Brookfield, where she grew up. There were swans on the pond and as a quick break, she would go out and watch them. Then her husband bought her a camera so she could take photos of them, which she did.

"I don't ever remember seeing swans there growing up, so I was really excited to be able to see them," she said.

When her father died, she began taking her camera and documenting nature, which helped her grieve, she said.

"I just love it," she said of photographing birds and wildlife.



The bald eagle chick in this nest appears to be looking right at photographer Anna Henderson.



Turley Publication courtesy photos by Anna Henderson

HARDWICK from page 1

Barre to eventually take sewerage from Wheelwright and with Ware to take Gilbertville sewerage. Officials from the USDA, which could fund up to 75 percent of what has been estimated to be a \$41 million project, have indicated they would favor a regional approach, according to selectmen and Town Administrator Theresa Cofske last fall.

The town has applied for potential USDA money to address the problematic sewer line from Eagle Hill School to the Gilbertville sewer lines last fall and for the larger USDA grant for the regional project by Feb. 1.

The town's Wheelwright and Gilbertville wastewater treatment plants are failing and the line from Eagle Hill School has had numerous blockages and constant issues particularly over the last few years, including strong sewer odors in Gilbertville.

The Environmental Protection Agency, through the state's Department of Environmental Protection, has put the town under a consent order to fix both plants.

USDA officials have told the town it must be able to show how the town will be able to pay for the system. The officials have also told the town they want to see a dialogue with Eagle Hill School about the sewer line from the school that ties into the sewer system in Gilbertville, and what financial contributions the school may be able to contribute to any project that solves the current issues.

Other town meetings set

Selectmen also set a second Special Town Meeting for Wednesday, June 24, at 6 p.m., at the Hardwick

Elementary School, which may be held outside as well. It will focus on tying up the town's financial fiscal year-end issues. It will be followed by the Annual Town Meeting, selectmen said.

Town Election

The Annual Town Election was set for Tuesday, June 16. There are no contested races this year, but voters at this year's Town Election will be asked whether they want to approve a Proposition 2 1/2 debt exemption to pay for the sewer system upgrade.

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viewpoints

GUEST COLUMN

How Congress has changed

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

If you feel like Congress has become less productive, less functional, and more partisan... you're right. I've been thinking a lot lately about how it's changed over the years since I served there in the '60s and the '90s, and several issues help explain why it often struggles to get things done.

Heightened partisanship may top the list. Congress has always been a partisan organization; we've seen tense battles throughout its history. But now they're more intense and occur more frequently. Members tend to see issues predominantly, though not completely, through a partisan lens.

This is reflected in their voting patterns. In the 1960s and 1970s, votes in which a majority of one party opposed a majority of the other occurred roughly one-third to one-half the time. Starting in the early '90s, that percentage rose into the 60 and 70 percent range. Add to this increasingly split control of Congress, with one party controlling the House and the other the Senate, and agreement becomes exceedingly difficult to find.

In many ways, this reflects the country at large. Though identification with a party or as an independent has tended to move a few percentage points over time, Americans of each party seem ever more firmly stuck in their own camps. It has become more difficult to resolve our differences, and this has undoubtedly contributed to congressional gridlock.

Years ago, the question that pervaded discussions on Capitol Hill was, "What can we do to resolve this problem?" Members were unwilling to accept stalemate or lack of agreement. Leaders at the time—people like Carl Albert and Tip O'Neill on the Democrats' side and Bob Michel and John Anderson on the Republicans'—certainly had partisan differences, but these did not dominate the discussion. Behind closed doors they would discuss them civilly and politely, even going so far as to share private polling numbers.

At the same time that polarization has increased, Congress's ambition has generally lessened. It's almost inconceivable today that Congress would tackle a big issue—say, how to provide health care for older people—by trying to create something like Medicare. You see this same trend in oversight of the executive branch. There were committee chairmen who knew the ins and outs of the departments they oversaw down to the finest detail. They would spend days grilling administration witnesses (of even their own party), creating an extensive record of what an administration and its political appointees were trying to accomplish—information that helped ordinary Americans understand and judge the government's approach. That is much harder to find today.

I think you can also detect the same trend at work in a diminishment of Congress's oratorical ambitions. There was a time when members of Congress on both sides of the aisle considered Congress to be equal in stature to the President and the executive branch, and their speech-making reflected this: they saw strong oratory as a chance to encapsulate ideas and inspire Americans to rally behind them.

A key thing to remember is that this wasn't just the speaker of the House or the majority leader of the Senate. Power and influence were spread more widely across both chambers. As the leadership in recent years has come to dominate the process, ordinary members find far fewer chances to shine. The collapse of what was known as the "regular order," the committee work and amendment process that allowed ordinary members to participate in the deliberative work of Capitol Hill, has thoroughly concentrated power in the hands of leaders and made Congress less representative as a whole.

That trend has been accentuated by the extent to which money now talks at every stage of the process. It's not just that members are constantly trying to raise campaign funds. It's that the mix of who funds those campaigns has changed dramatically. In the late 1970s, according to the Brookings Institution's Vital Statistics on Congress, labor and corporate PACs gave about equally. Now, corporate PACs account for the vast majority of all the money flowing to members' campaigns.

The result of all this? Congress is still a vital part of our democracy, but it is by most measures a less effective one.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Starting annual flowers indoors

This past Saturday my daughters and I completed our annual seed starting ritual. First, we gathered all of the brightly-colored packets of flower seeds I had accumulated, and with them all sprawled out in front us, started writing out labels on old Popsicle sticks. Both the girls have their own little flower plot in the garden; it's always fun to see what varieties make the "cut" so to speak.

Then I found a good selection of clean, reused containers: six-packs from plants I purchased last year, former yogurt or take-out ice cream cups and other such containers, and filled them with moist potting soil. We usually sow one or two seeds per cell or cup, depending on the gusto of the plant sown. This year, my favorite seed starting mix is the Coast of Maine brand. I purchased it at Hardwick Farmer's Co-op, in Gilbertville, no-contact style by calling and paying ahead.

Once the seeds are sown we put all of the containers in a tray covered loosely with a clear plastic bag and placed it in a warm spot. Once they germinate I'll make sure to keep them in a sunny window, or better yet put them outside in a sheltered by sunny spot if the weather cooperates. They won't be transplanted into the garden until the chance of frost has passed, usually by Memorial Day, and after they have been acclimated to the outdoors by a period of hardening off.

Bachelor's button or cornflower: Could the

first name come from the fact that this flower fits perfectly into a button hole? Or maybe it's popularity as a boutonniere flower? No

matter, kids will love them because of their two-inch delicate blooms in pretty shades of blue, pink, lavender, maroon and white. Plants can grow anywhere from one to three feet tall and are rather lanky in appearance. For that reason they can be spaced at just six inches apart. They often peter out in the heat, so resow in late June for blooms well into the fall.

Calendula or pot marigold: Long prized for its medicinal qualities, we all love calendula because of its bright yellow or orange flowers. Depending on variety, the petals on these beauties can be single, semi-double or fully double, and can have contrasting dark eyes. Most top off at less than two feet tall. They are subtly fragrant. Plant 10 inches apart. Cut spent blooms to keep the plant producing and with any luck you could see flowers past the first fall frost. Do let a few flowers fade on the plant, and when they are completely dry and the color of straw, let the kids examine and pull apart the tightly-packed seed cluster. Put some in a jar, label, and save like my mom did for sowing next year.

Marigolds: We either "love 'em or hate 'em," probably because of their smell. Kids always seem to steer to the former. First off, the easy to handle seeds are really cool because they're black and white and have tails! They come up easily and bloom for most

of the summer even in drought. Of the three species most commonly sold, stick with either the French or the African for bouquet making. French types are best for the edge of the border, growing only about a foot tall. African marigolds usually grow anywhere from two to three feet tall depending on variety. Plant six inches apart for the shorter types and at least a foot apart for the taller varieties.

Zinnias: My absolute favorite summer flower in the world! Some say gaudy, I say cheerful. The dahlia-flowered variety 'Barnaby's Giant' has flowers in every color but blue. They regularly top four inches across. Plant these in the back of the border at least one foot apart. A bouquet of these would certainly deserve a pretty vase and prominence on the window sill.

Why not forgo buying transplants this year and start some flowers from seed? It is a lot of fun to see the process full circle, from seed to flowers and then to seed again. The varieties I have outlined below are great for beginners or children, but even old pros will enjoy these and many other types come mid-summer.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

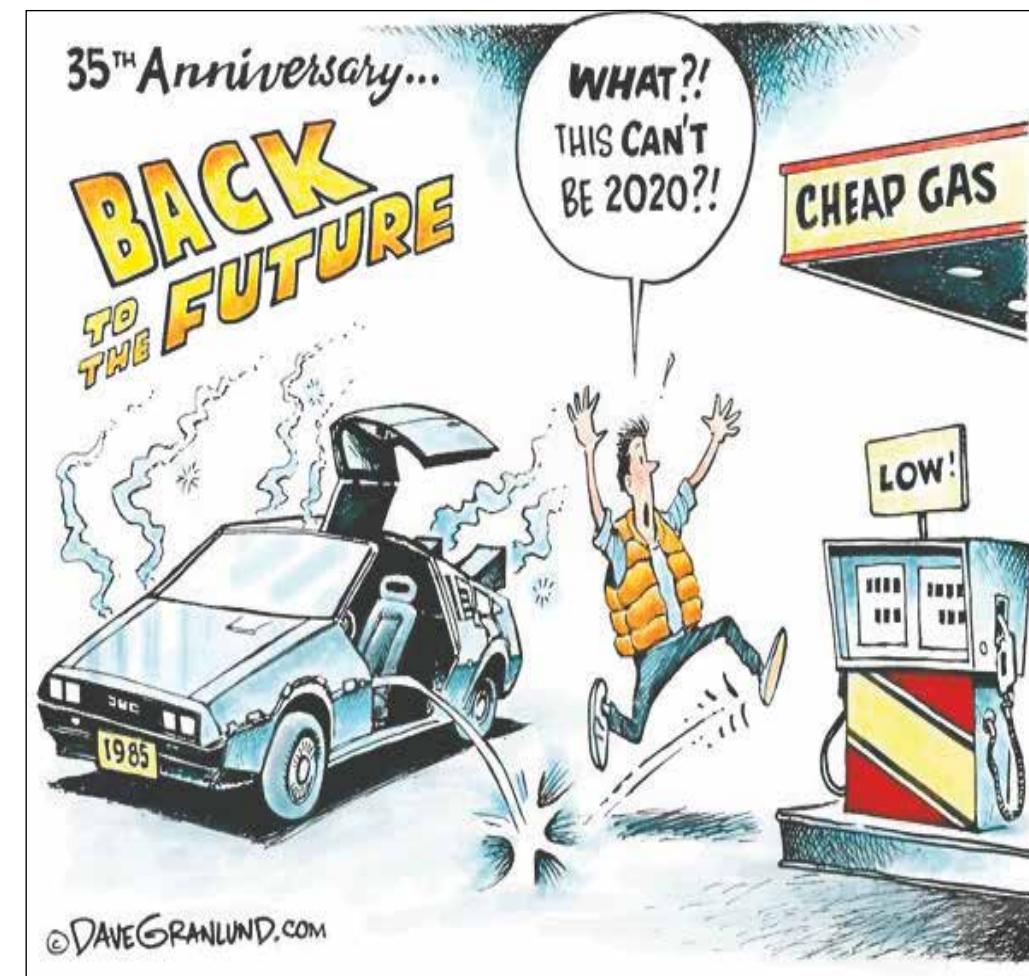
Can my husband get a spouse benefit from me?

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: I'm wondering if my husband can submit a "restricted application for spousal benefits only." He is 76-years-old, has been receiving his benefit since 2005. His present benefit is \$263.50. I am 74-years-old, receiving my benefit since 2007. My present benefit is \$931. Am I to understand that he could be receiving half of my amount rather than his smaller amount? *Signed: Inquiring Wife*

Dear Inquiring Wife: Your husband isn't eligible to file a "restricted application for spousal benefits only" because he is already collecting his own Social Security benefits and because he is past 70 years of age. But he should probably be receiving a spousal benefit from you because his benefit is so much lower than yours. From what you've written, you both claimed your Social Security benefits when you were 62 years of age. That means you both took a 25 percent cut in benefits from what you would have gotten at your full retirement age of 66.

Spousal benefits are based upon FRA benefit amounts, even if you claimed benefits earlier. So, since your FRA benefit amount would have been about \$1,164 and your husband's FRA benefit would have been about \$330, by my calculations he should now be receiving a spousal benefit of about \$516 instead of his benefit of \$263.50. The computation for that is: Take half of your FRA benefit amount (\$582) minus your husband's FRA benefit amount (\$330); the difference (\$252) is added to his own current benefit (\$264) to get \$516 as his possible spousal benefit (note the actual numbers from Social Security may vary somewhat). This probably means that when you claimed your benefit two years after your husband claimed his, your husband didn't apply



for his spousal benefit (and it wasn't awarded automatically by Social Security).

I suggest your husband contact Social Security as soon as possible and make an appointment to apply for his spousal benefits. Since he has been entitled to that benefit for some time now, he can also request six months of retroactive spousal benefits which they will pay in a lump-sum and adjust his monthly benefit to what he is entitled to as your spouse. There is also a possibility that, when you filed, Social Security failed to notify your husband he was eligible for a spouse benefit, in which case he may be able to collect his spouse benefit back to the date he became eligible. Your husband should contact Social Security directly at either 1-800-772-1213, or at your local office (find it at www.ssa.gov/locator) to make an appointment to apply for his spousal benefit from you. And, usually, this application can be accomplished over the phone.

Please note that all of the above assumes

that your husband's current benefit isn't being reduced due to a non-covered pension which causes the Windfall Elimination Provision to lower his benefit amount, and which would cause the Government Pension Offset to severely alter, or even eliminate, his spousal benefit.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

TASK FORCE TALK

Finding shared value: Staying safe at home

By JAC and Jason Patrissi
Guest columnists

As the pandemic progresses, each of us is being asked to re-focus on what we value, even as it gets hard. We are asked to value the health of our neighbors, which means wearing masks and staying home in order to keep the levels of infection from going up. But once at home, the challenges mount. Many of us are wondering how long we can last without income. We are afraid for our health, and grieving many losses: income, connection, stability, the things that make us well. Our kids are feeling these things, too. We can expect that children will act out their frustrations and fear on others.

As adults, we have to care for ourselves in order to keep our cool with our kids and family members. Good advice includes:

- taking some time to find any small amount of gratitude;
- calling on a power greater than ourselves;

· stepping away until we get a different perspective;

- distracting ourselves with music or reading that is designed to counter the mood we are in. We find an animal video or we watch a comedian that makes us laugh;

- helping someone else;

- making sure we do something productive that gets our heart rate up a little;

- talking through things with someone;

- sticking to some kind of routine.

For most people, these suggestions will help us regulate our emotions. However, when it comes to stopping intimate partner violence and staying safe at home, there is more work required.

We have to choose to value our partner's safety and well-being more than we value being able to disrespect them or abuse them when we don't like how things are going, or how we feel. When we are abusive—disrespectful, intimidating, bullying, scary or dangerous—we act this way because we give ourselves permission to

do so. When we experience negative events and emotions, we decide that this is justification to misuse our power over others. We make ourselves or our needs superior to others. We can all do better than this. We can become safe and reliable people for our partners, our kids, our friends and family.

In addition to the skills listed above, try these:

- STOP MAKING IT WORSE. Notice when you've decided you don't like what is going on and are telling yourself things like: "Who do they think they are? I've had enough; I'll show them..."

Instead, ask yourself: "Where do I want to be in 20 minutes from this moment? What could I be doing instead of arguing or being violent or hurtful?"

Tell yourself, "This behavior will damage my relationship; I could even potentially be arrested."

Please see **TASK FORCE**, page 10

WARE RIVER NEWS

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PATRICK H. TURLEY

CEO

KETH TURLEY

President

EDITOR

Eileen Kennedy

ekennedy@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Dan Flynn

dflynn@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Greg Scibelli

sports@turley.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

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www.warenivernews.turley.com

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Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and "Your Turn" guest column between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

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Letter to the Editor
80 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082
or via email to:
ekennedy@turley.com

The deadline for submissions is Monday at noon.



2020 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.



Abby Bateman shows the paper hug she made her grandparents, Steve and Debbie Campbell, of Kansas.

Hugs delivered through the mail

WARE – Ware residents Aaron and Abby Bateman said, “We made paper hugs to send to Grammie and Papa in Kansas since they couldn’t come see us for a spring break and since we can’t hug right now. We hope it brightens their day.”



Aaron Bateman with a paper hug he made for his grandparents.

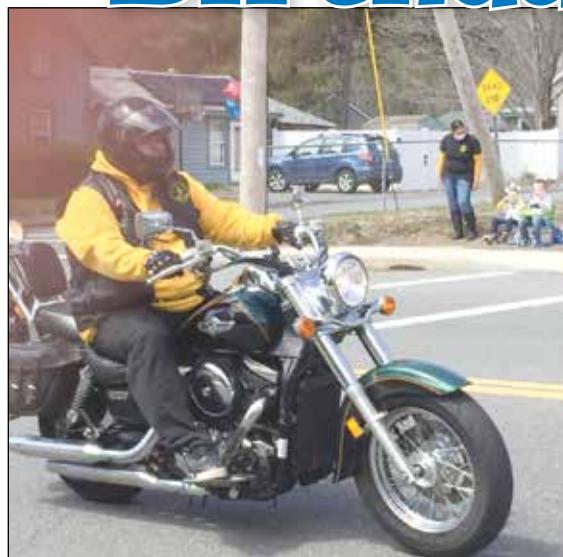


Debbie Campbell, of Kansas, also known as “Grammie” to Abby and Aaron Bateman, of Ware, who sent their grandparents paper hugs during this time of COVID-19.



Steve Campbell, of Kansas, also known as “Papa” to Aaron and Abby Bateman, of Ware, with the paper hug his grandchildren sent him.

Birthday Parade



Joey, seated, along his driveway to his building, waves to cars and motorcycles going by for his birthday Saturday.



Turley Publications staff photos by Eileen Kennedy
Joey Woodward, of West Warren, turned 5 on Saturday, and here he is waiting for his drive-by birthday parade Saturday afternoon. Luckily, he lives on Route 67 so it was easy for participants to go by, then turn around and go by again.



Joey, with other family members, waves to those going by as part of his birthday celebration Saturday.

Big Y food donations help feed others

SPRINGFIELD – In a chain-wide effort to help the less fortunate within their local communities, Big Y has donated over \$11.5 million of food or a total of 5.7 million meals to help those in need throughout the region. Their recent Sack Hunger program caps off year-round daily efforts to donate food to all five of their local food banks.

The five food banks within Big Y's local marketing area represent over 2,100 member agencies that benefit from almost daily food donations as well as Sack Hunger. They are The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, The Greater Boston Food Bank, Worcester County Food Bank, Foodshare of Greater Hartford and the Connecticut Food Bank.

In addition to Sack Hunger, Big Y donates healthy food to these food banks 6 days a week throughout the year.

Two thirds of those 5.7 million meals include donations of meat and fresh produce, and bakery, non-perishable grocery items, frozen food and dairy products account for the rest. In fact, these almost daily donations have become routine and a natural part of Big Y's operations. These food banks depend upon this steady flow of food to feed those in need.

Big Y's 10th annual Sack Hunger/Care to Share program brought just over 20,000 bags of food to local recipients. Sack Hunger bags are large reusable grocery bags filled with staple non-perishable foods for local food banks.

Big Y customers purchase a Sack Hunger bag full of groceries for \$10 and Big Y distributes that bag of groceries to a local food bank. In turn, the food banks distribute the filled sacks to area soup kitchens, food pantries, senior food programs, day care centers and more throughout their member agencies. In addition, customers had the option of purchasing a “virtual” bag in store or online where proceeds were used by many agencies to purchase turkeys or whatever was most needed. Since its inception, 10 years ago, over 175,000 bags have been donated through this program, which typically runs through November and December of each year.

According to Charles L. D'Amour, president and CEO, “We are proud to partner with our local food banks every day of the week. During the holiday season, our Sack Hunger program makes it easy for our customers to provide nutritious, non-perishable staple food to those less fortunate within our community. We are grateful to our customers who help support our friends and neighbors in need. In fact, all of their donated sacks of food have already been distributed to area food banks.”

Big Y Foods, Inc. is one of the largest independently-owned supermarket chains in New England. Big Y operates 83 locations throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut including 71 supermarkets, Fresh Acres Market, Table & Vine Fine Wines and Liquors and 10 Big Y Express gas and convenience locations with almost 12,000 employees. Big Y has been recognized by Forbes as a Best-in-State Employer in Massachusetts and Connecticut, as well as Employer of Choice by the Employers Association of the Northeast. Founded in 1936 by brothers Paul and Gerald D'Amour, the store was named after an intersection in Chicopee, Massachusetts where two roads converge to form a “Y”.

Cornerstone Bank makes donations to groups impacted by coronavirus pandemic

WORCESTER — During these unprecedented times, Cornerstone Bank is making donations to help local organizations with the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. As a local, community bank, supporting the community is a top priority.

A \$15,000 donation was made to Harrington Healthcare System. This donation will be used to aid in the purchasing of personal protective equipment for front line staff. For more information, and to nominate a Central Massachusetts small business, visit <https://railershc.com/>.

about COVID-19, please visit <https://www.harringtonhospital.org/>.

A \$5,000 donation was made to the Worcester Railers HC Small Business Stimulus Power Play. This donation will be used to purchase gift certificates to local businesses throughout Central Massachusetts. These gift certificates will then be given away to fans at Railers Hockey games during the 2020-2021 season. For more information, and to nominate a Central Massachusetts small business, visit <https://railershc.com/>.

A \$2,000 donation was made to St. John Paul II food pantry in Southbridge, which also serves Sturbridge. This donation was matched by the Tri-Community Exchange Club and will provide extra funds at a time when the food pantry is seeing an increase of people in need. For more information on the St. John Paul II food pantry, and ways that you can help, please visit <https://stjp2parish.org/food-pantry>.

“It is during these times that local organizations need our help the most,” said Cornerstone Bank President and

Treasurer and Chairman of the Bank's Charitable Donations Committee Todd M. Tallman. “I am proud to be a part of an organization that places importance on our community.”

Cornerstone Bank is an independent, mutual savings bank serving the residents, businesses, and communities throughout Central Massachusetts from offices in Warren, Sturbridge, Charlton, Holden, Leicester, Rutland, Southbridge, Spencer, Webster and Worcester along with a loan center in Westborough.

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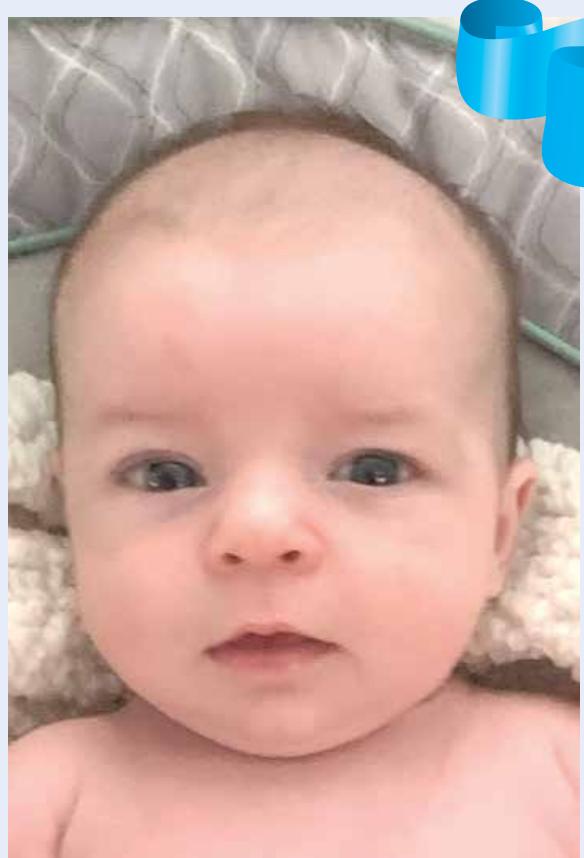
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Landon Jaxon Goudreau

WARE — Landon Jaxon Goudreau, son of Kellyann Kaiser and Ian Goudreau of Ware, was born on March 11, 2020, at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton. He weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 inches long at birth.

Maternal grandmother is Donna Dansereau of Spencer. Maternal great-grandparents are Therese Grogan and Stuart Bell, of Spencer. Paternal grandparents are Keith and Kim Goudreau, of Ware. Paternal great-grandparents are Paul Young, of Ware, and Roberta Goudreau, of Ware.

CEREMONY

from page 1
year's budget, for an increase of about \$265,534.47.

"It's impossible to meet," he said. "We will have to slash every department if we stick with this number."

"We can't stick with it," said Quabbin School Committee member Edward "Ned" Kelly, who represents Hardwick on the board.

Other communities are having problems with their assessments as well, he said, and if the budget remains the same it will likely be voted down in at least some of its member towns.

It was suggested selectmen and the Finance Committee talk about a number the town could support, and Quabbin School Committee should be told the town could not support such an increase.

Young said even if the town raised its tax levy by 2 1/2 percent as the law allows, it would bring in about \$110,000 of the \$265,534.

In other school finance matters, selectmen briefly discussed the bill for the remainder of the school year for VanPool ser-



Turley Publications photo by Mandy Miller
Daffodils grace the cannon at the War Memorial in Gilbertville; this year there will not be any ceremonies although there will be an online reading by Paula Roberts.

vices to bring students to Smith Vocational School. Young suggested not paying the remainder, but Cofske said other districts and communities are paying a percentage, mostly between 72 and 82 percent of the school year's bill.

Feeling bored . . .

CRYPTO FUN
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to landscaping. Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 16 = n)

A. 22 3 17 16
Clue: Contains grass

B. 23 3 12 7 24 16
Clue: Organized plants

C. 26 22 3 16 9 19
Clue: Living organisms with roots

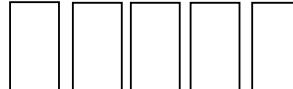
D. 7 24 19 8 23 16
Clue: Plan or drawing

Answers: A. lawn B. garden C. plants D. design

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to landscaping.

S A G S R



Answers: Grass

Guess Who?

I am a comic actress born in Texas on April 26, 1933. I once lived in a boarding house for women pursuing careers in acting. I have earned a Tony, Emmy and Golden Globe for my work in various genres.

Answer: Carol Burnett

horoscopes

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, others want to lure you into their shenanigans, but you don't need to worry about falling prey. You stick to your own ways of doing things.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, you may need to take a different and unusual approach to get things accomplished this week. Do not be afraid to take the bull by the horns if it is necessary.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Thinking outside of the box is something that you do with frequency, Gemini. Although others may not be sure of your unconventional methods, you always get things done.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, anxiety about starting a new path or chapter in your life is completely normal. Look forward to all of the positive things that may be in store soon enough.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 22

Lend a helping hand to someone who may need a vote of confidence or some words of support this week, Leo. Your efforts will be appreciated very much.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Make the most of luck that comes to you this week, Virgo. Do not speculate why such good fortune comes your way, but embrace it with an open heart.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 22

Do not rush to judgment on any situation or person for the time being. All of the facts have not come to light or sharpened. But the truth will soon reveal itself, Libra.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, someone close to you needs space this week, so give them some room to breathe. Find a way to keep busy as this person works through what he or she needs.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, a competitive coworker is pushing hard to be on top. Use this as motivation as you to strive to become the best version of yourself you can be.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you feel confident moving forward with a relationship after a heart-to-heart talk. Now this week you can cultivate this relationship even further.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Share your thoughts and feelings with someone who is unbiased if you want an accurate assessment of what you need to do to improve, Aquarius. A willing listener is quite helpful to you.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, you will need patience in spades this week. Others may not be able to maintain your pace, so give them the benefit of the doubt.



The Miller family works together to complete a virtual "10K" – gathering 10 items that start with the letter "k."



Turley Publications courtesy photos
The Miller family relaxes around their pretend campfire.

CAMP

from page 1
in the confines of your living room required good communication and teamwork.

Parent and Eagle Scout Brad Miller said the biggest challenge his family faced was, "staying in the camping mentality." Certainly no easy task when surrounded by all the comforts of home, especially a soft bed. Some of the benefits to virtual camping included staying dry and warm, and of course, no insects.

While the Scouts admitted they missed the company of their fellow pack members, they enjoyed seeing what Cub Scouts in other packs do for fun during their camping trips.

One aspect of camping the Scouts look forward to the most is the food. The Ouimette family was able to roast hot dogs and marshmallows over their fire pit, while the Miller family enjoyed a pretend campfire and s'mores dip indoors.

When asked what the biggest difference between regular camping and virtual camping was, Pack 520 responded:

Sadie: "Nobody was there and it wasn't as fun as real camping."

Quinn: "There was no campfire in the living room and there is a campfire outside."

Penny: "It's smaller inside, and it's bigger outside."

Jackson: "You need wifi for virtual camping. Also normally you sleep outside in nature but with virtual camping I got to sleep in a tent inside my house!"

From Pack 26, Cooper and Deklan both agreed that they "missed being able to get together with our friends." But they enjoyed not having to pack up as much gear as a regular campout. The Scouts enjoyed the traditional camping fare of hot dogs and beans and roasted marshmallows. They even made cinnamon bun doughnuts. When asked what their favorite Camp Quarantine memory was, they both replied, "playing in the tent, roasting marshmallows and learning how to yo-yo."

These Cub Scouts are looking forward to their next outdoor adventure and they are hopeful to have a "real" pack campout soon.



The Ouimette family celebrates the completion of setting up their campsite.

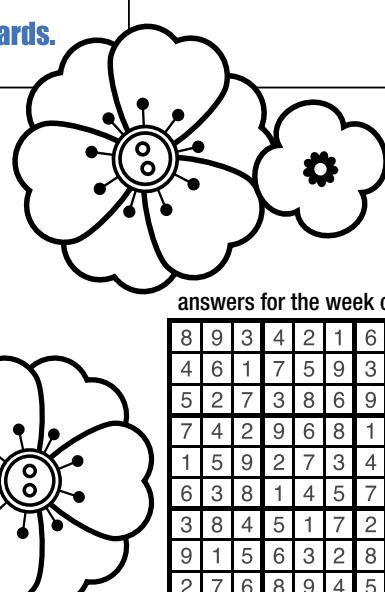
YARD CARE WORD SEARCH



Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

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AERATE
ALKALINE
AMENDMENTS
BEAUTIFY
BLADE
CARBON
COMPOST
DEADHEAD
FERTILIZE
GREEN
LANDSCAPE
LEAVES
MATTER
MOW
MULCH
ORGANIC
PEAT
PLANTINGS
PRUNE
SHRUB
SOIL
TILL
WATER



8	9	3	4	2	1	6	7	5
4	6	1	7	5	9	3	2	8
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7	4	2	9	6	8	1	5	3
1	5	9	2	7	3	4	8	6
6	3	8	1	4	5	7	9	2
3	8	4	5	1	7	2	6	9
9	1	5	6	3	2	8	4	7
2	7	6	8	9	4	5	3	1

ANSWERS WILL BE IN NEXT WEEKS PAPERS

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Summer soccer league officials optimistic for season

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – In the advent of the high school sports spring season being cancelled and the lack of team sports being played all over the country, sights in Western Massachusetts have now begun looking at whether summer sports will be played.

Summer sports have ballooned over the years as a way to keep all athletes active during the summer months. In the past, there was only summer baseball and soccer. But basketball, field hockey, lacrosse, and even flag football have been added over time.

The Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League, however, nearly outlasts them all and is considered a crucial battleground for players that are vying for that competitive edge heading into the fall season.

The PVSSL has been in existence for more than 40 years, and there is some question as whether or not the season will begin on time following the cancellations that have already occurred.

Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, which hosts the PVSSL finals in early August, is the home of the semi-pro Western Mass. Pioneers. However, their season has been cancelled.

The American Legion baseball program will not have a national tournament or a World Series. However, Legion officials do hope players will have a regular season, especially with the spring baseball season cancelled.

Chris Kolodziey, who along with his wife Dianna, took over the PVSSL in place of his late father, league founder and legendary soccer contributor William Kolodziey, says they are monitoring the situation closely.

Unlike some other leagues, Dianna Kolodziey said last week there is some flexibility in holding the PVSSL season.

"We are not opposed to revis-

ing the start and end dates for the leagues, we are will continue to explore our options to get our players back on the field," said Dianna Kolodziey.

The league typically begins play in mid-June and concludes during the final week of July with a playoff week following that.

PVSSL plays a 10 or 11-game regular season. The league is divided into four divisions, Division A boys, Division B boys, Division A girls, and Division B girls. Larger schools highly competitive or advanced smaller schools usually participate in Division A. Division B usually includes smaller schools or situations where a larger school has two teams.

Last week, Dianna Kolodziey placed a statement on the PVSSL website expressing the optimism of having a normal summer season.

"At this time we are keeping our hopes up and being optimistic that we will be able to move forward with the PVSSL this summer," she stated. "Our plan is to have the a league for the summer. Chris and I along with our executive board is continuing to monitor the situation with the Corona virus (COVID-19) throughout our nation and around the world. While this is an evolving situation, we are taking the current situation seriously and are following developments very closely.

"We will continue to monitor the situation in real time and will provide a further update in the near future. We apologize any inconvenience this may have caused however, the safety of our PVSSL family is our highest priority."

Dianna Kolodziey did not specifically say what steps would be taken if the season were to start, including modified rules for social distancing, and eliminating handshake lines after games like a number of sports plan to.

The Kolodzieys state they hope to hold registrations in early May. For more information, Kolodziey can be contacted at ckolodziey@msn.com.



File photos
Players from all over the region have participated in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League for more than 40 years. The league said last week it is closely monitoring the coronavirus situation, but is still hopeful the league will begin play on time in mid-June.

Mass. Golf cancels open event in June

NORTON – Mass Golf has made the decision to cancel the 11th Massachusetts Open, set to take place June 15-17 at Taconic Golf Club in Williamstown, due to the ongoing spread of COVID-19 throughout Massachusetts and the entire country.

All six Mass Open qualifying events have also been canceled, but any exemptions from this year will carry over and be honored for the 2021 Mass Open.

Participants who have registered have received an email detailing how refunds will be processed for the Mass Open and its qualifying events.

The Mass Open is the only Mass Golf event that allows amateur and professionals from any state or country to enter and compete against one another. With a professional purse of \$75,000, the Mass Open offers one of the largest purses in the New England area.

The Four-Ball Championship was also canceled earlier this month, making the Mass Open the second of Mass Golf's Championships to be canceled this year. This also marks the first time since 1945 that there will be no Mass Open played, as the event was not held from 1943-45 due to World War II.

"We care deeply about this historic and signature champi-

onship and have made this decision with a heavy heart," said Jesse Menachem, Mass Golf's Executive Director/CEO. "This is an unfortunate situation we're dealing with in the COVID-19 era, but our absolute priority is to protect the health and safety of the Players, Officials, Volunteers, and Spectators as well as the Host Club Staff and Mass Golf Staff involved in the Mass Open and its qualifying events. Taconic has been extremely supportive throughout this decision-making process and we are so appreciative of our long-standing partnership as well as their understanding and flexibility in what is truly an unprecedented time."

The Qualifying schedule was as follows: Pine Brook CC (May 7); CC of Pittsfield (May 13); Kernwood CC (May 18); Ocean Edge R&CC (May 20); Pleasant Valley CC (May 26); and The Bay Club at Mattapoisett (May 28).

Oak Hill CC in Fitchburg will be the host site of the Mass Open in 2021. The club will be celebrating its centennial next year as well.

"We greatly appreciate the continued support of all our Mass Golf Member Clubs who were scheduled to host qualifying, as well as Taconic GC for their willingness to host the Championship," said Kevin Eldridge, Mass Golf's Director of Rules & Competitions.

"We look forward to continuing this signature event in 2021."

Taconic was getting set to host the Mass Open for the second time, first hosting it in 1992 when Boston native Andy Morse took home the title. Taconic has also hosted three USGA Championships and four NCAA Championships in its storied history. Jack Nicklaus was 16 when he made the semifinals of the 1956 U.S. Junior Amateur, hosted by Taconic.

Taconic also hosted the Mass Amateur back in 2016, won by Brendan Hunter, of Red Tail GC.

Josh Hillman, the head golf pro at Taconic, said he's disappointed that COVID-19 has led to this cancellation of the Mass Open and other events, and he just wants to see Taconic get another shot at some point.

"Taconic will always be here for Mass Golf, and we hope to get another Championship on the schedule soon," said Hillman, who was named the 2019 Northeastern New York PGA Professional of the Year.

New Hampshire's Michael Martel won the Mass Open last year by edging out Ryan Gendron (Tampa, Florida) by 1 stroke. In the process, he ended Jason Thresher's three-year winning streak in the Mass Open.

UWS still hopeful for 2020 season

LUDLOW – United Women's Soccer (UWS) has reaffirmed its intent to play the 2020 season for both UWS and UWS League Two. The start of the season will be delayed in order to align with CDC guidance and we will work with all of our clubs to adjust the regular season schedule. The safety of our players, fans and staff remain our top priority and we will continue to monitor events and receive guidance from local, state, and national authorities.

"First and foremost, the safety of all the players, staff and supporters will guide any final decision on the 2020 season," said League Commissioner Joseph Ferrara Jr. "We have been work-

ing diligently on different scenarios based on potential timelines. UWS intends to provide a National Championship structure for our member teams as it is the most important service provided by the league. Our investment into this event has made it a tremendous showcase for women's soccer.

The New England Mutiny participate in the UWS and has recently featured several star players from Western Massachusetts.

The USL-Two, a men's semi-professional team, recently announced the Northeast Division cancelled its regular season.

Sign-ups ongoing for Quabbin League

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning players, sign-ups are extended through May 1. New players can also sign up through this date with the draft currently set

for May 2. The league hopes to begin play in early June. The season is 15 regular season games plus at least one playoff game. A modified schedule is being worked on by league officials. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org/>. The league is also in Facebook.

Spring sports officially cancelled

Following the governor's closure of schools for the remainder of the year, spring sports will not happen

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – After weeks of speculation back and forth, the high school sports world got the sad news it had been dreading.

Last Friday, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association's Board of Directors was forced unanimously to cancel the spring sports season and associated tournaments.

It was a mere formality as Gov. Charlie Baker announced last Tuesday that schools in Massachusetts would remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 academic school year, which would have ended in mid to late June.

Baker held off for a few weeks on making the decision, hoping new coronavirus case numbers would decrease to the point where the state could begin opening up.

But as the "surge" in both new cases and deaths progressed, it became clear to Baker's administration that putting students in schools would not be a good situation. Additionally, the Massachusetts Teachers Association pushed for the closure of schools for the remainder of the year.

The closure of school means it is not possible for athletes to play sports, putting an end to the proposed shortened, 12-game season the MIAA was hoping to play beginning on May 4. The school closure was set to expire on that day before Baker made his announcement.

Please see **CANCELLED**, page 9

Modified Series remains postponed amid pandemic

WINCHESTER, N.H. – The Tri Track Open Modified Series event at Monadnock Speedway, scheduled for May 9, has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of our race teams, drivers, staff and fans continues to be paramount during this unprecedented situation. The series will continue to abide by guidelines given by local government and public health officials. At this time, Tri Track officials are working together with Monadnock Speedway to come up with a reschedule date that will fit both parties.

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Public safety

Ware Police Log

Monday, April 20

12:21 a.m. Harassment Complaint North Street – Services Rendered
2:17 a.m. Ambulance Request Valley View – Referred to Other Agency
2:30 a.m. Disturbance West Street – Services Rendered
9:26 a.m. Ambulance Request Old Belchertown Road – Services Rendered
12:30 p.m. Ambulance Request Cummings Road – Services Rendered
2:55 p.m. Erratic Operator Complaint West Street – Area Searched Negative Find
6:23 p.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Aspen Street – Area Searched Negative Find
9:59 p.m. Harassment Complaint North Street – Referred to Other Agency
11:37 p.m. Harassment Complaint High Street – Services Rendered

Tuesday, April 21

12:55 a.m. Ambulance Request High Street – Services Rendered
2:36 a.m. Ambulance Request North Street – Services Rendered
8:38 a.m. Fire, Report South Street – Services Rendered
8:52 a.m. Investigation State Street – Services Rendered
9:20 a.m. Transport North Street – Arrest On Warrant
9:20 a.m. Arrest North Street – Services Rendered
9:21 a.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Main Street – Services Rendered
11:12 a.m. Arrest Monson Turnpike Road – Arrest, Misdemeanor Charge
Arrest: Christopher Lizotte, 30, Sturbridge
Assault and Battery on +60/Disabled
11:20 a.m. Investigation State Street – Message Delivered
12:28 p.m. Investigation West Street – Services Rendered
1 p.m. Investigation Pine Street – Services Rendered
1 p.m. Investigation Eagle Street – Services Rendered
1 p.m. Investigation South Street – Services Rendered
1:44 p.m. Investigation State Street – Services Rendered
2:07 p.m. Investigation West Street – Services Rendered
2:25 p.m. Investigation Babcock Tavern Road – Investigation Pending
3:02 p.m. Drug/Narcotics Violation Otis Avenue – Services Rendered
4:15 p.m. Accident, Vehicle

West Main Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
4:20 p.m. Investigation High Street – Investigated, Report Filed
6:32 p.m. Suspicious Activity/Person West Street – Services Rendered
8:40 p.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Webb Court – Services Rendered
9:38 p.m. Shoplifting West Street – Investigated, Report Filed
10:04 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Greenwich Plains Road – No Police Service Necessary
10:18 p.m. Missing Person Aspen Court – Services Rendered
10:25 p.m. Investigation North Street – Investigation Pending

Wednesday, April 22

12:03 a.m. Suspicious Activity/Person North Street – Services Rendered
12:09 a.m. Officer Wanted Pulaski Street – Investigation Pending
3:12 a.m. Ambulance Request Chester Avenue – Referred to Other Agency
5:56 a.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Gould Road – No Police Service Necessary
8:43 a.m. Ambulance Request Hillside Village – Services Rendered
8:52 a.m. Investigation Parker Street – Services Rendered
9:23 a.m. Investigation North Street – Message Delivered
9:43 a.m. Investigation Babcock Tavern Road – Message Delivered
11:17 a.m. Accident, Vehicle Otis Avenue – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
11:29 a.m. Ambulance Request Anderson Road – Services Rendered
1:07 p.m. Ambulance Request Elm Street – Services Rendered
1:55 p.m. Investigation High Street – Services Rendered
2:38 p.m. Investigation Sorel Road – Services Rendered
3:03 p.m. Larceny, Theft Report Palmer Road – Services Rendered
3:06 p.m. Investigation West Street – Services Rendered
3:42 p.m. Investigation Pulaski Street – Services Rendered
4:01 p.m. Alarm Burglar West Street – False Alarm
7:55 p.m. Ambulance Request West Street – Referred to Other Agency
8:35 p.m. Ambulance Request Church Street – Referred to Other Agency
8:49 p.m. Abandoned, 911 Call Monson Turnpike Road – Services Rendered
2:24 p.m. Fraud Kingsberry

Thursday, April 23

1:02 a.m. Accident (Hit and Run) Palmer Road – Area Searched Negative Find
6:30 a.m. Silent, 911 Call North Street – Services Rendered
7:44 a.m. Suspicious Activity/Person South Street – No Police Service Necessary
8:46 a.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Cottage Street – Area Searched Negative Find
8:47 a.m. Vandalism Marjorie Street – Investigation Pending
9:55 a.m. Investigation South Street – Message Delivered
10:23 a.m. Investigation West Street – Investigation Pending
10:25 a.m. Investigation West Street – Services Rendered
11:19 a.m. Harassment Complaint Main Street – Services Rendered
12:24 p.m. Investigation Palmer Road – Services Rendered
1:26 p.m. Investigation North Street – Services Rendered
2:08 p.m. Fraud Church Street – Services Rendered
2:13 p.m. Investigation State Street – Services Rendered
2:17 p.m. Investigation West Street – Services Rendered
3:28 p.m. Investigation North Street – Services Rendered
3:34 p.m. Accident, Vehicle West Street – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
4:30 p.m. Accident, Vehicle Bondsbridge Road – Motor Vehicle Accident Over \$1,000
4:45 p.m. Disturbance, Palmer Road – Area Searched Negative Find
6:25 p.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Palmer Road – Area Searched Negative Find
7:13 p.m. Accident (Hit and Run) Palmer Road – Investigation Pending
7:16 p.m. Disturbance West Street – Area Searched Negative Find
7:35 p.m. Fraud North Street – Investigation Pending

Friday, April 24

8:43 a.m. Motor Vehicle Violation Robbins Road – Criminal Complaint Issued
8:49 a.m. Investigation Cummings Street – Investigation Pending
11:54 a.m. Investigation West Street – Services Rendered
12:01 p.m. Investigation North Street – Message Delivered
1:07 p.m. Investigation West Street – Message Delivered
1:11 p.m. Investigation Gareau Avenue – Services Rendered
2:24 p.m. Fraud Kingsberry

Lane – Services Rendered

2:25 p.m. Investigation Pleasant Street – Services Rendered
3:45 p.m. Parking Complaint Anderson Road – Referred to Other Agency
4:35 p.m. Ambulance Request – Referred to Other Agency
4:39 p.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Prospect Street – Services Rendered
9:48 p.m. Disturbance Prospect Street – Verbal Warning Issued

Saturday, April 25

6:54 a.m. Accident (Hit and Run) Palmer Road – Services Rendered
9:45 a.m. Investigation North Street – Investigation Pending
5:02 p.m. Ambulance Request Eagle Street – Services Rendered
5:30 p.m. Harassment Complaint Fisherdick Road – Services Rendered
7:10 p.m. Disturbance Beaver Lake Road – Services Rendered
8:59 p.m. Suspicious Activity/Person Robbins Road – Arrest On Warrant
10:26 p.m. Disturbance Westbrook Avenue – Services Rendered

Sunday, April 26

5:50 a.m. Alarm Burglar East Street – Services Rendered
12:22 p.m. Investigation North Street – Investigation Pending
1:29 p.m. Hang-up, 911 Call Fisherdick Road – Services Rendered

Wednesday, April 15

3 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Miller Drive – Transported to Hospital
1:03 p.m. Fraud Old West Brookfield Road – Report Filed

Thursday, April 16

7:21 a.m. Fire, CO Alarm East Road – Investigated
8:32 a.m. Vandalism Canada Lane – Officer Advised

Friday, April 17

9:39 p.m. Motor Vehicle Suspicious Old West Brookfield Road – Officer Spoke to Party
1:39 p.m. Suspicious Activity Old West Brookfield Road – Unfounded
5:32 p.m. Suspicious Activity Old Brook Road – Unfounded
7:08 p.m. Suspicious Activity East Road – Investigated

Saturday, April 18

6:05 a.m. Property Dispute Old West Brookfield Road – Message Delivered
7:16 p.m. Assist Other Police Department Brookfield – Services Rendered

Sunday, April 19

5:23 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned/Silent North Street – Investigated

Monday, April 20

10:24 a.m. Breaking and Entering Past Residential Burbank Avenue – Report Filed

Tuesday, April 21

12:34 p.m. Fire, Arcing Wires Reed Street – Removed Hazard
2:21 p.m. Wires Down Brimfield Road – Removed Hazard

Wednesday, April 22

3:42 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned/Silent Warren Unknown – Services Rendered

Thursday, April 23

11:22 a.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned/Silent Quaboag Street – Officer Spoke to Party

Friday, April 24

10:25 a.m. Alarm Residential Old West Brookfield Road – Services Rendered
5:57 p.m. Fraud Keys Road – Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, April 25

12:03 a.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned/Silent Comins Pond Road – Confirmed Misdial
12:20 a.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Yankee Drummer Drive – Ambulance Signed Refusal
3:05 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned/Silent Keys Road – Confirmed Misdial
5:15 p.m. Property Dispute Main Street – Officer Spoke to Party

Sunday, April 26

5:31 p.m. Fire, Automatic Alarm Brimfield Road – Investigated
7:48 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned/Silent Southbridge Road – Confirmed Misdial

Monday, April 27

8:24 p.m. Disturbance, Noise Complaint Main Street – Officer Spoke to Party
9:36 p.m. Disturbance, Noise Complaint Main Street – Officer Spoke to Party

Tuesday, April 28

10:23 p.m. Disturbance, Person(s) Main Street – Investigated

Wednesday, April 29

11:01 a.m. Initiated – Parking Complaint Prospect Street – Services Rendered

Thursday, April 30

10:03 a.m. 911 – Misdial Muddy Brook Road – Dispatch Handled

Friday, April 31

10:45 a.m. Initiated – Property Damage Main Street – Investigated

Saturday, April 1

11:58 a.m. 911 – Fire, Chimney Old Greenwich Plains Road – Services Rendered

Sunday, April 2

12:19 p.m. Phone – Disturbance Greenwich Road – Services Rendered

Monday, April 3

10:19 p.m. Phone – Suspicious Activity Petersham Road – Unfounded

Tuesday, April 4

10:40 p.m. 911 – Misdial Old Petersham Road – Spoken To
10:48 p.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Main Street – Transported to Hospital

Wednesday, April 5

1:25 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Church Lane – Transported to Hospital

Thursday, April 6

3:44 a.m. 911 – Assist Citizen Church Lane – Officer Handled

Friday, April 7

6:39 a.m. 911 – Medical Emergency Hardwick Road – Transported to Hospital

Saturday, April 8

11:01 a.m. Initiated – Parking Complaint Prospect Street – Services Rendered

Sunday, April 9

10:23 a.m. 911 – Disturbance Bridge Street – Services Rendered

Monday, April 10

11:58 a.m. 911 – Fire, Chimney Old Greenwich Plains Road – Services Rendered

Tuesday, April 11

12:19 p.m. Phone – Disturbance Greenwich Road – Services Rendered

Wednesday, April 12

1:11 a.m. Suspicious Activity Coy Hill Road – Investigation Ongoing

Thursday, April 13

2:50 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned/Silent River Street – Confirmed Misdial

Friday, April 14

10:14 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Yankee Drummer Drive – Transported to Hospital

Saturday, April 15

3:36 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned/Silent Quaboag Street – Information Taken

Sunday, April 16

7:51 p.m. Fire, Medical Emergency Heritage Drive – Transported to Hospital

Warren Police Log

Sunday, April 12

11:11 a.m. Suspicious Activity Coy Hill Road – Investigation Ongoing
2:50 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned/Silent River Street – Confirmed Misdial

Monday, April 13

12:34 p.m. Fire, Arcing Wires Reed Street – Removed Hazard

Tuesday, April 14

2:21 p.m. Wires Down Brimfield Road – Removed Hazard

Wednesday, April 15

3:42 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned/Silent Warren Unknown – Services Rendered

Thursday, April 16

4:53 p.m. Wires Down South Street – Services Rendered

Friday, April 17

5:54 p.m. Motor Vehicle Suspicious Coy Hill Road – Officer Spoke to Party

Saturday, April 18

10:51 a.m. Motor Vehicle Accident Old West Brookfield Road – Vehicle Towed

Sunday, April 19

12:18 p.m. Breaking and Entering Past Auto/Motor-Vehicle Old West Brookfield Road – Investigated

Monday, April 20

1:29 p.m. Hang-up, 911 Call Fisherdick Road – Services Rendered

Tuesday, April 21

2:50 p.m. Suspicious Activity South Street – Officer Spoke to Party

Wednesday, April 22

3:42 p.m. Property Damage Old West Brookfield Road – Report Filed

Thursday, April 23

4:02 p.m. 911 – Hang-up/Misdial/Abandoned/Silent Quaboag Street – Confirmed Misdial

Friday, April 24

4:14 p.m. Fire, Automatic Alarm Winthrop Terrace – Investigated

Saturday, April 25

5:12 p



Turley Publications courtesy photo

HCC EMT students taking part in a emergency practice drill last November.

HCC EMT training program starts June 22

WARE — Holyoke Community College, in collaboration with the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation and Star of Life Academy Inc., is offering EMT training through the E2E: Quaboag Region Workforce Training and Community College Center at 79 Main St., beginning June 22.

The Emergency Medical Technician Basic Course, accredited by the Mass. Dept. of Public Health's office of emergency medical services, will meet Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 6 to 9:30

p.m. and on select Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. from June 22 to Sept. 2.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, some of the classes may be conducted in live, remote sessions instead of face-to-face.

The 13-week program consists of more than 170 hours of in-class lectures and additional online study, training, field trips and workshops designed to prepare students for the state EMT certification exam. The course covers all aspects of emergency care including patient handling, extrication, and communication,

working with law enforcement, legal issues, ethics, medical equipment, and safe transportation of patients.

Instruction will be provided by staff from Star of Life Academy who have more than 30 years combined field experience in fire and emergency medical services.

Enrollment is limited so please register as soon as possible.

The course fee is \$1,099 plus \$225 for texts.

For more information or to register, please contact Valentyna Semyrog at 413-552-2123 or vsemyrog@hcc.edu.

Grant extends free HCC college-prep program

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College has been awarded a \$450,000 state grant to extend its free college preparation program, Transition to College and Careers, for three more years.

The grant from the state Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) allocates \$150,000 a year for the next three fiscal years — 2021, 2022 and 2023 — with the college providing an additional 30 percent match.

Transition to College and Careers, also known as TCC, is a free, adult education program that helps students 18 or older prepare for college and identify a career path. Coursework includes intensive academic preparation in reading and writing, math, study strategies, and computers.

The program is designed for all adults, including students with high school equivalency certificates, those who have completed English as a Second or Other Language or other adult literacy programs, and those who have been out of school for a long time and want to return.

"TCC is really a bridge for them so they feel like they understand what college is about and gain confidence in their abilities to manage the academic workload," said TCC director Marie Troppe.

There is no cost to students for the classes or course materials.

HCC to hold free digital literacy program

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College will run a free online program starting Tuesday, May 5, for people, who want to sharpen their digital literacy skills to become more effective remote workers and learners.

"How to Work and Learn Online" offered through HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development, is a four-part workshop series that will be conducted in a live, interactive, streaming forum on May 5, May 7, May 12, and May 14, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Participants will learn how to navigate computer settings, create and organize files and safely use the internet and digital communication tools such as Zoom. Sessions will cover best practices for being an effective online learner including tips on study habits, expectations of online learning and how to use Google Drive and other computer applications.

The course was developed and will be taught by Jose Pedraza, assistant coordinator of HCC's Gill Community Technology Center, which promotes technology literacy for HCC education and workforce training programs.

"Our staff and faculty have been working hard to find creative ways to help students and people from the community during these challenging times," said Michele Cabral, HCC executive director of professional development and corporate learning. "Knowledge of computers and online literacy have become more important than ever lately. This course is really designed for anyone - students, parents with young children, people forced to work at home because of COVID-19 restrictions and others who want to develop a greater mastery of digital technology."

Those enrolled will be sent a link to the class, which they can join using any device with an internet connection, such as a desktop computer, laptop, Chromebook or smartphone.

For more information or to register, people may contact Valentyna Semyrog at 413-552-2123 or vsemyrog@hcc.edu.

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Ware River News

CANCELLED from page 7

The announcement gives a definitive answer to the question about whether or not seniors will have their final moments in many of their respective spring sports. The decision cancels baseball, softball, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys tennis, girls tennis, boys track, girls track, boys volleyball.

There are no proposals for any school sponsored sports to play during the summer, and athletic directors will now have to turn their attention to hopefully playing sports this fall, provided school resumes in September.

In the MIAA announcement, they have made no mention or answered any questions about the status of fall sports. However, athletic directors in Western Massachusetts have begun developing fall schedules, expecting teams will be playing in early September.

The coronavirus first struck the end of winter sports on March 12, when the MIAA was forced to cancel the state finals in both

hockey and basketball. Monson High School girls basketball played in the final state semifinal game, losing to Maynard in a Division 4 semifinal at Worcester State University with fans barred from the building. Maynard and other semifinal winners were deemed "co-state champions" by the MIAA.

The spring season was set to begin on March 16, and was first postponed to March 30 as many schools closed down on their own for two weeks. Gov. Baker then shut schools down for three weeks until April 7. In a subsequent decision on March 23, athletics were postponed through April 27. Baker countered with school closure extension through May 4. The MIAA followed suit with a May 4 starting date for spring sports, agreeing to a shortened season and only holding sectional playoffs that would have concluded before the end of June.

Unlike colleges, which granted athletes an additional year of eligibility for spring sports, seniors in high school will not have that option.

Peter William Krok

WARE — Peter Krok, 92, died on Friday, April 24, 2020, at Leonard Morse Hospital in Natick. Son of the late Michael and Katherine (Wardzala) Krok, Peter grew up in Northampton. The youngest of seven children, Peter married Wanda Guzik and lived in Ware for over 60 years.

Peter served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Hawaii during World War II. He worked as an auto mechanic and garage service manager before becoming a salesman in the automotive department at Sears in Holyoke.

Peter's life revolved around time spent with family. He never hesitated to help others and joked freely with everyone. Having grown up on a farm, he had a soft spot for animals, and once spent a year befriending a frightened stray cat until she became an adoring housepet. He was beloved by neighborhood children, who came to visit him regularly.

Peter loved listening to and dancing to live polka music. He followed the stock market closely until his final

Death notices

Krok, Peter W.
Died April 24, 2020
Cebula Funeral Home

Podkowka, John A.
Died April 18, 2020
Services will be private
DellaVecchia, Reilly,
Smith & Boyd Funeral Home Inc.
West Chester, Pennsylvania

days. A jack-of-all-trades, he was adept at home renovation and repairs, car maintenance and gardening.

Peter was predeceased by his wife, Wanda, his sisters, Helen and Amelia, and his brothers Frank, John, Joseph and Michael. He is survived by his only child, Kristina Krok, of Needham; son-in-law, Eric Endlich; grandchildren, Alexander and Elyse; and many nieces and nephews and their families.

Cebula Funeral Home was entrusted with the final arrangements. For more information and guestbook, please visit www.cebulafuneralhome.com.

Ware River News
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries

should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

John "Jack" A. Podkowka

WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA — John "Jack" A. Podkowka, 79, of West Chester, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully in his home in West Chester, PA surrounded by loved ones on Saturday April 18, 2020.

Born Nov. 13, 1940 in Ware, he was the son of the late Adam Podkowka and the late Wanda Drega Podkowka. He was the husband of Beverly A. Podkowka.

Jack and Beverly were happily married for over 52 years. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Angela Darlington, son-in-law, Jeff Darlington, grandson, Hunter Darlington, granddaughter, Sara Darlington, brother, Theodore Podkowka, and sister-in-law, Zos Podkowka. He was predeceased in death by his brother, Frank Podkowka.

Jack grew up in Ware, Massachusetts, attending St.

Mary's and Ware High School. Norristown.

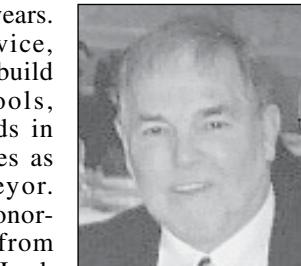
Jack was an avid sports fan.

He enjoyed watching Penn State and New England Patriots football and especially his grandchildren's athletic events. He was their biggest and most vocal fan. He was an active member of St. Maximillian parish and served on the Church Finance Committee.

Services and interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to American Heart Association, 1617 JFK Blvd., Suite 700, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Arrangements are being taken care of by DellaVecchia, Reilly, Smith & Boyd Funeral Home Inc., of West Chester, Pennsylvania.



Genevieve Marie (Pranskevich) Germain, 94

A Remembrance:

Genevieve (Genny) dedicated most of her married life to the care of her six children, MaryAnn, Marcia, Genevieve, Michael, Peter Joseph and Therese.

She was born in Mt Carmel, Pennsylvania, on Jan. 4, 1925 to Lithuanian immigrants, a real coal miner's daughter, one of eight children.

After graduating high school, she trained in aircraft sheet metal for the World War II war efforts and worked on welding aircraft parts in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Towards the end of the war Genny moved to New York City with her older sisters, and worked as a sales clerk in the Macy's Department Store.

In New York City she met Louis (Jerry) Germain of Springfield, Massachusetts, who was serving in the 2nd Marine Division and was deployed in the

South Pacific.

In March of 1945, they married and moved to Alexandria, Virginia, where Jerry was stationed and hospitalized for machine gun wounds, before being discharged. Genny secured work as a telephone operator.



with his family on their small dairy farm.

Eventually through the GI Bill they bought and ran a small dairy farm in the Gilbertville/Hardwick area. Farming was a struggle for these two novices. Both supplemented income with second and third jobs. Genny worked in the Gilbertville Mills and later in the Barre Wool plant.

When the farm closed due to new dairy distribution laws, Genny went back to school, and

obtained a LPN nursing license. She worked at Belchertown State School until retirement at 65.

Genevieve enjoyed her retirement living out her days "on the farm" until May 14, 2019, when she died from pancreatic cancer with cardiac complications.

She enjoyed gardening, remodeling the house, spending money, going to plays, and traveling with family. She was an avid reader and prolific knitter.

Genevieve leaves her six children, their spouses, ex-spouses, and significant other. She also leaves nine grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchildren. She was survived by two sisters, Emilie, of New York, and Beverly, of Pennsylvania.

We miss you Mom.

Our family wishes to express heartfelt gratitude to Mom's medical service providers. A special thanks to Dr. Ronald Beauzile, and nurse care manager Kimberly, of Quabbin Adult Medical, and the Bay State Home Health and Hospice Services.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

The Library Loft

Schoolhouse Commons Historical Center • 1085 Park Street, Palmer

We are celebrating our 20th year at the Schoolhouse Commons.

Thanks to our wonderful "friends," volunteers and patrons.

HOURS:

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HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or the Library Loft during open hours.

Please, no magazines or Reader's Digest Condensed Books.

We accept books only in good, clean condition.

For more information call 283-3330 ext. 100



Stitch in time fills a need

Masked Makers sew masks

By Ellenor Downer
Staff writer

REGION – When she heard of the mask shortage, Juli Sansoucy decided to contact several members of the orchestra she conducts, who work at UMass Memorial Medical Center about making masks.

Cloth masks are unacceptable for those dealing directly with COVID-19, but documented research said that a cloth mask is 50 to 60 percent effective. The masks are even more efficient with a filter.

Later that day, Dr. Jeff Baxter, a bassoonist in the orchestra, said he could use the masks. Dr. Baxter oversees Spectrum Methadone clinics across the state and he was going to have to ration his N-95s to screen those coming into the building. He had none for the rest of his staff. Sansoucy took on the challenge. She called a quilter friend, who offered to help and to start recruiting volunteers. "The next day I started the Facebook group, "The Masked Makers," she said. "I had never run a Facebook group before so there were a few start up issues but we've been growing ever since."

"Masked Makers" quickly grew to approximately 20 sewists, a supply person and an established pick up and drop off points. The group received donations of some elastic and cotton fabric. "Some sewers are hugely productive and others sew what they can, when they can," Sansoucy. "All sewers are welcome. Everyone has their own level of sewing comfort and people self-select when it comes to mask difficulty."

Elastic is in short supply. Sansoucy got lucky and ordered seven large spools as the country began to wake up to masking. That supply is almost gone now and the next order will not be in until mid-

May. The masks use 1/8-inch, 1/4-inch or 3/8-inch elastic, either flat or round. Many of the makers are now sewing masks with ties as well. Other materials are cotton fabrics either with cute designs or just plain colors for the backside of each mask and of course, thread.

It takes approximately 15 to 30 minutes to make a mask depending on the difficulty level. Many of volunteers are using the Deaconess Hospital pattern, which is quite simple. Here is the link to

Deaconess Mask: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Bg0Os5FWQ>.

To date, Masked Makers have donated 1,043 masks and expect to deliver more on April 22, to a visiting nurse company and three eldercare communities.

The "Masked Makers" officially donated to 18 organizations involving healthcare workers among them were Women's Health of Central MA, NICU and oncology units at UMass, Harrington Hospital, St. Vincent's, Devereux Behavioral Health, Kennedy Community Health Center, Quaboag Rehabilitation, Tewksbury Public Hospital and last week the group gave 50 to the Hannaford Supermarket in North Brookfield. In addition, many makers also made many donations of their own.

"We have approximately 30 participants, but about 18 who are heartily sewing every week," Sansoucy said.

People that do not sew may donate 100 percent cotton fabric as well as the three types of elastic 1/8-inch, 1/4-inch or 3/8-inch elastic, either flat or round. Any sewist who would like to join or someone wishing to donate materials may contact her at jesansoucy@charter.net. At that time, she will invite them to the Facebook group. Absolute rank beginners as well as accomplished seamstress are welcome. "This is a great way to spend your idle time and feel as if you are



Nurses wear masks made by Masked Makers, a group of volunteers, who sew masks.



These workers show approval for the masks they received from volunteers

helping with the cause," she said. "With the recent need for masks, there is also the need for our group to be protected

as a resource. We have had requests for masks that were at best 'sketchy.' At this point, we are requiring official requests

from the institution or the person making the request must be known to one of our makers. Official IDs also work."

QCC receives National Science Foundation Grant

WORCESTER – Quinsigamond Community College was recently awarded a \$298,108 National Science Foundation grant for a new Robotics Technician Certificate program. The program will be designed to offer a curriculum that supports technical communication, teaches problem-solving skills and offers a strong integration of industry-recognized certifications. Underrepresented QCC student populations that participate in the school's existing robotics community outreach programs will directly benefit from the program. Additionally, other beneficiaries targeted include 400 pre-college and undergraduate students, who have demonstrated interest in robotics technology.

Robotics education is not a new concept at QCC. It is already a part of the college's manufacturing and mechatronics programs. According to Jacob Longacre, associate professor of electronics engineering technology at QCC, the new Robotics Technician Certificate will be based on input from industries within the region, as well as local high schools and four-year institution educators. The hope is for the new certificate program to act as a conduit between K-12 robotics outreach programs.

"We want to be sensitive to industries' needs, how things are changing and bring more of that interest and need to the program," Longacre said.

While QCC faculty and staff have already begun reaching out to industry leaders, the grant funding will now enable QCC to formally begin a comprehensive fact-finding process. This summer, QCC will establish a local business and industry leadership team for robotics, to identify and prioritize the skills desired by local employers. The goal is to have the pilot program tested and in place within three years.

One key component to the program is finding ways in which to engage and inspire students in the world of STEM, particularly those students in middle and high school. For many years QCC has been involved with the VEX Robotics programs. These programs and competitions target high school and middle school students, in an effort to increase interest in STEM from an early age.

"These programs expand students interest in STEM and connects those students who may not have these types of technology opportunities," Longacre said. "We want our certificate program to get these students excited and interested in robotics."

"The awarding of this NSF Grant enables us to develop new career pathways for students," said QCC President Dr. Luis Pedraja. "We must teach not only for today's industry needs, but also teach to the needs of the future. I believe this program will be a gateway to self-sufficiency for many students."

For more information about QCC, people may contact Josh Martin, director of institutional communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu.

TASK FORCE from page 4

If I stop this now, things can get better; people won't get hurt and I won't do more damage to those I care about. Today can be a better day for us. I can turn this around. I can make this happen. I can handle this."

· PRACTICE INQUIRY, NOT HUMILIATION. We may not always agree, but we can move from being superior to becoming interested in others. Try saying, "I want to understand more of what you are saying...." or "I never thought of it that way....that's an interesting way to see it. Tell me more."

· BE AWARE OF YOUR BODY LANGUAGE: We don't always see how our tone of voice, facial expressions and bodies communicate. Yelling does not always cause fear, but if we have been dangerous or intimidating, then yelling is communicating to those we love that we don't really value them. That's not the message to send to your loved ones, to children or partners. Look in the mirror and take an inventory of how you look when you are communicating. You do not want to do more damage.

· HONOR SPACE and PERSONAL BOUNDARIES: During this pandemic and quarantine, we need to change our expectations of shared space in order to help mitigate the irritability and impatience that can lead us to allow ourselves to be rude and abusive. If you find your self-talk is full of blaming other people because of your impatience and because things are not going how you want them to go; STOP. Tell yourself, "Most other people are experiencing the same difficulties and challenges. I can be part of modeling respectful boundaries."

· BE RESPECTFUL AND SAFE: Real respect means showing someone we care about that they are safe with us, no matter what the situation. In our presence and company, they do not need to worry about being hurt emotionally or physically; in difficult and challenging situations, they can rely on us to be safe and understanding. Show your partner, your children, and your loved ones you understand what being safe looks like. You can build trust one block at a time: Don't yell when you normally would, refrain from calling someone a name that you can't take back. Don't use your body to menace or hurt. Instead, ask yourself, "What is the best way for me to show you that you can trust me because I care about you and your safety by being respectful?"

To learn more about groups in our community that teach people how to be safe in relationships contact Proteus 413-967-6241, ext. 58531. People can feel your anger, contempt and belligerence. They can also feel when you are worthy of their trust and respect because you commit to safety, compromise, negotiation and fairness. Let's be willing to remind one another to stay safe at home; let's be the kind of people who are willing to be reminded.

JAC Patrissi, is founder and director of Growing a New Heart Inc. and Jason Patrissi, assistant chief of probation, Northampton Superior Court, are both members of the Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Task Force. To contact the Task Force visit us on Facebook, email us at wrvdvtaskforce@gmail.com, go to www.waredvtaskforce.org, or call the Task Force Community Input Line at 413-758-0605.

Public notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton,
MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS20P0201EA
Estate of:
Melissa Ann Cammuso
Date of Death:
July 11, 2019
INFORMAL
PROBATE

PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Justin A Cammuso of Ware, MA.

Justin A Cammuso of Ware, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of

Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
4/30/2020

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103**

(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD20A0032AD
CITATION
G.L. c. 210, § 6
In the matter of:

Avalynn Marie Morin

To:

Ryan Joseph McNamee any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by:

Alexandra Morin of Monson, MA

William Randall Bozenhard, Jr. of Monson, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

Avalynn Marie Morin-Bozenhard

If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is

defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Springfield

on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: 05/29/2020

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: April 23, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin Register of Probate

4/30, 5/07, 5/14/2020

Legal Notice

Ware Public Schools

239 West St.

Ware, MA 01082

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 38N, of the Massachusetts General Laws -

There will be a Public Hearing on the Ware School Department's Proposed Budget for the 2020-2021 School Year.

The hearing will be held virtually via

WARE TV-REMOTE

ACCESS at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 13, 2020.

Public comments can be e-mailed to sc-communications@ware.k12.ma.us.

A copy of the proposed budget will be available for viewing on the Ware Public School's website (www.wares.org).

Aaron Sawabi, Chairperson
Ware School Committee
4/30/2020

LEGAL NOTICE

The Ware Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on

Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 7 p.m.

pursuant to the wetlands protection act MGL 131 c40.

The hearing will include a consideration of a Request for Determination of applicability (RDA) by MassDOT for resurfacing of Route 9. Said

hearing will be held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, 126 Main Street, Ware, MA 01082. To view the application and related plans, contact the Conservation office at 413-967-9648 x117.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 4, Section 13, a

copy of this legal notice can be found on the

Massachusetts newspapers

publishers association's

website: <http://masspublisnotices.org>.

4/30/2020

Ware, MA 01082. To view application and related plans, contact the Conservation office at

413-967-9648 x117.

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